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MONTANA

Employment And
Labor Force OCT - 1979



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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE
MONTHLY REPORT

October 1979

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

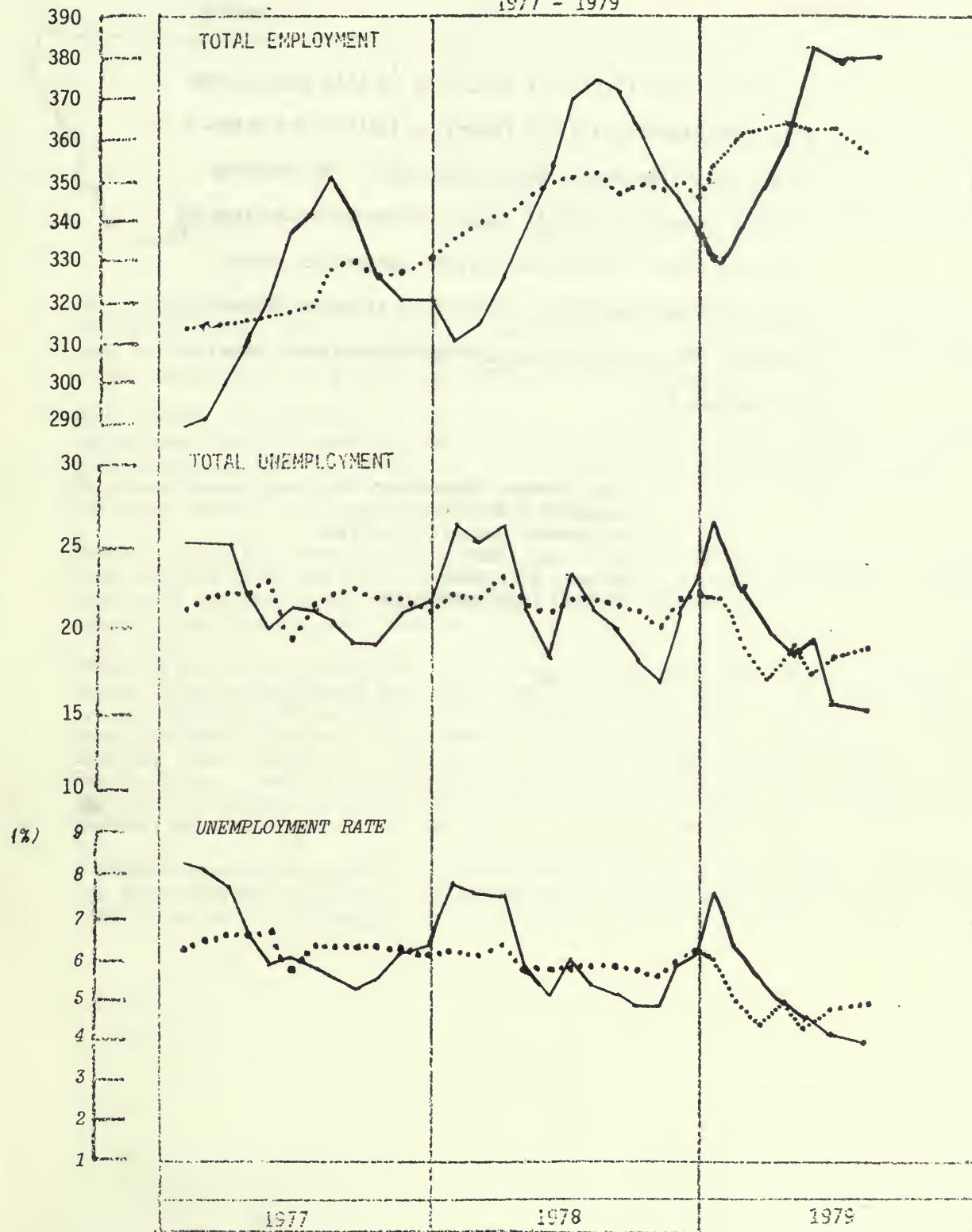
1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:)

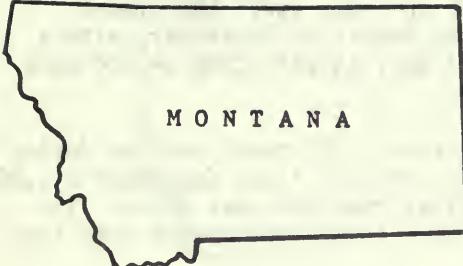
1977 - 1979



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *



The labor force continues to contract due to seasonal factors, yet employment and unemployment figures remain favorable. The unemployment rate remains well below the national figure.

The September labor force fell from 395,500 in August to 379,700. This figure is 2,300 below the total number of workers for September, 1978. Employment registered a similar change as it dropped by 13,800 from August to September. The number of employed workers for September of 365,000 is only 1,100 over September, 1978.

The unemployment figure for September is recorded at 14,700, which is the lowest it has been since 1974. In August, unemployment was at 16,700 and at 18,100 last year at this time. An unemployment rate of 3.9% for September is very favorable as it has not been this low since September of 1973. The national rate is now at 5.6%.

Warm weather has allowed most outdoor work to continue through October. With the spring grain harvest complete, Montana's yield is 20% less than last year. Russian grain purchases have contributed to a 27% increase in crop prices since March. Sugarbeet harvest was running ahead of normal pace with 60% harvested. Potato and apple harvest are also nearing completion.

Major construction continues throughout the state with very few new housing starts. High interest rates are governing construction starts around the state. Even with reports of carpenters and laborers being laid off, the major effects of high interest rates on construction employment has not occurred yet.

Oilfield activities consisting of drilling, exploration, and pipeline construction appear to be active around the state. New hires were reported in several areas. Canada is talking of cutting back its shipments of crude oil to Montana. Their plans had been to reduce the shipment as of January 1, 1981, but now say it could come any time. Montana now imports 55,000 barrels a day, and this will drop to 14,000 barrels a day. This is an important factor, since three Billings refineries depend on Canadian imports for 34% of their production. The shortage will be compensated somewhat with Wyoming oil, but capacity will still be below present production.

A plywood manufacturing plant in Western Montana announced its closure, which will put 300 employees out of work. With the winter season just around the corner, the hunting season is picking up and other winter activities are soon to start.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor in September totaled 35,100 in the Great Falls SMSA. This was 700 less than last month and 1,700 less than one year ago. Employment declined by 500 from August to September, with a 33,300 count. Last year at this time 34,500 were considered employed.

Unemployment registered a 200 count decline during the August to September period. Also, September's 1,800 unemployed is 500 less than one year prior. The unemployment rate recorded at 5.1% in September. This is an improvement over last month's 5.5% and last September's 6.2%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Shopping center development again highlights the September construction projects. The mall in the northwest section of Great Falls was issued a building permit; thus, some construction can begin this year. A shopping center in the southwest part of town was conditionally approved by the City-County Planning Board. The Fox Farm Addition location will entail 65,000 square feet of structure.

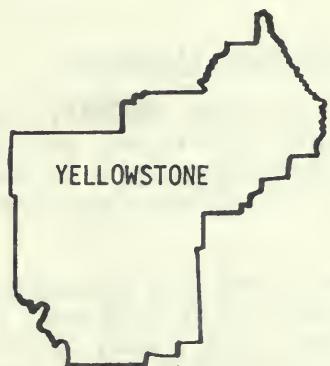
Several other major construction projects were awarded to local contractors. Malstrom Air Force Base released a contract for \$1.26 million to develop an education center. The 17,000 square-foot structure is expected to be completed by next fall. On Sixth Street Southwest, a \$899,050 highway project was awarded by the Montana Highway Department. In downtown Great Falls, final land acquisition was obtained for a multi-level downtown parking ramp. Completion date is scheduled for next December on the \$2.5 million parking building. Demolition work will start in November.

Building permit values for the past six months have dropped in comparison to last year - commercial down 27% and housing down 48%. In September, 53 permits valued at \$2,255,781 were issued. One year prior, 75 permits valued at \$1,029,017 were obtained. Among the larger permits for September were an office building costing \$430 thousand and a bar and restaurant costing \$200 thousand.

The local Job Service office employment activity was strong in the service and trade industries. Agriculture worker demand has declined considerably.

One of the current projects of the City-County Planning Board is the Great Falls bus system. The voters have already approved the bus transportation development. A consulting firm has been obtained for a feasibility study on how to operate the bus system.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation

After rising in August, all components used to calculate the unemployment rate dropped in September. The figures are changed only slightly from July. Significant changes do exist from September of last year.

The civilian labor force dropped by 400 from August to 54,900. This drop resulted in 200 less employed, 53,300 and 200 less unemployed, 1,600 than in August. September's unemployment rate of 2.9% compares to 3.2% for August.

In September of last year the civilian labor force was greater than this year's by 600. There were 100 more employed persons and 500 more unemployed. Last year's September unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Lay-offs in the LMA - both those occurring this month and some expected soon-highlight economic activity. Two hundred employees were laid off by a railroad this month. The impact of the lay-off may be alleviated somewhat since many workers with seniority have been able to transfer to other locations. A temporary lay-off of 30 workers, out of 500, at a Billings packing plant was made until production is back to normal following contamination of animal feed. Two construction companies laid off workers this month - 17 workers at one company and 50 at the other. Many of these workers have found employment in the Colstrip area, though.

A threat of lay-offs in refinery occupations exists now that Canadian shipments of crude oil may be curtailed from 55,000 barrels a day to 14,000. While the previous imports accounted for less than 1 percent of U.S. imports of crude oil, the Canadian crude is important in northern tier production of fuel and may disrupt winter fuel supplies and result in lay-offs and higher gasoline supplies.

- Building permits in the LMA for August were only half of the total for August 1978. For January through August this year is \$3.5 million behind last year's pace. Several new construction projects are underway, however. These include: a \$1.2 million warehouse and office building, a \$390,000 warehouse, and a \$1.2 million school addition. Two million dollars of contracts for work in Yellowstone Park will be let and Billings contractors may be able to capitalize on these. Several businesses in the Billings area have added new staff and relocated to expand operations. A new restaurant will locate in a mall and add 33 employees.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment statistics enjoyed favorable changes compared to both August of this year and September of last year. The unemployment rate of September, 4.6%, is down from 5.3% for August and down from 6.2% for last year.

The number of persons unemployed dropped 400 since August to 1,600. Last year at this time, 2,300 persons were unemployed. The number of employed in the LMA, 34,100, is down from 36,200 in August and down from 34,900 last year. Likewise, the civilian labor force dropped 2,500 from August to 35,700 and 1,500 from last year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction and mining interests highlight this period's economic activity. Warm weather has allowed residential construction to remain on the upswing in Butte. The monthly average for housing starts in Butte was down, though, 7.4 units compared to 8.3 units last year. A moratorium was imposed by HUD on construction of homes financed by the FHA awaiting tests for radon gas. In the Dillon area, residential construction has been down due to higher interest rates. Many projects are going ahead in Dillon, though. The courthouse addition is over 60% complete and renovation of a hotel continues. Up to \$500,000 will be spent on a new grain elevator.

Since the announcement by a local mining company to begin underground mining, over 20 workers have been hired. A total of 60 new hires are anticipated this year. An energy research facility has reported 50 openings in engineering and technical occupations, with 50 more anticipated next year, also.

Farm and ranch activity was stable this period, with grain harvests and potato digging. In Dillon, a shortage of rail cars and the grain elevator loss has forced some farmers to pile grain on the ground.

Retail business throughout the area was down this period, as expected by merchants. Activity should increase through November. Several new restaurants are nearing completion and are due to open in November. Some new hires will result, but many employees will come from the recent closing of other establishments in the area.

The scheduled layoff of 49 workers at the state prison has been postponed. At Warm Springs State Hospital, a layoff of 41 workers has also been postponed. Up to 32 of these workers may be transferred to the Galen facility, however.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Bozeman LMA declined by 1,200 from August to September, leaving a total of 27,500 persons. This total is the same as September, 1978. Also, the employed personnel dropped by 1,200 in the one month period. September's employment total of 26,700 is 100 more than one year ago.

The number of persons unemployed remained unchanged at 800 thru the August to September months. In September, 1978, 900 were considered unemployed. The unemployment rate declined from 2.9% in August to 2.7% in September. This compares to 3.3% for September, 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Industrial revenue bonds requests and approvals highlight the LMA economic development. A \$1.5 million bond by a commercial printing company received Gallatin County commissioner's approval. The expansion of the manufacturing plant will begin next spring. Employment will increase to approximately 50 workers. Bozeman city commissioners approved a \$4 million bond to construct a new bank building. The 30,000 square foot downtown structure is also scheduled for spring construction. In Livingston, two separate requests for developing a bowling center with industrial revenue bonds has been submitted to the city council. Public hearings are pending on the bowling alley financing issue.

A ski resort near Yellowstone Park has a conditional approval of sewer and water supply systems. The development plans include a 400 room lodge, 225 condominiums, 89 single family dwellings, and a 59-acre ski village. The resort could accommodate 650,000 people each year.

Several other projects are in the planning phase. A \$400,000 home for developmentally disabled adults will be constructed in Livingston. The student union building expansion and remodeling at Montana State University will entail three-to-four million dollars. Decisions on several of the wind powered generator grants are expected soon. Also, an electrical power company has expressed interest in designing wind powered generators in the Livingston area.

A good indicator of the tourism trade industry during the summer is the Yellowstone Park visitor count. Thru September, the park tourism total was 1,783,000 which is 29% less than last year. Bus travel increased considerably, but this total only amounts to about 3% of all tourism.

The service and trade industries should prosper from fall activities of college students and hunters. Enrollment at Montana State University topped 10,000 for the first time. Also, a large supply of college students are available for part-time work. All of the 15,000 out-of-state hunting licenses were sold. Bozeman LMA is one of the more popular hunting areas for these individuals.

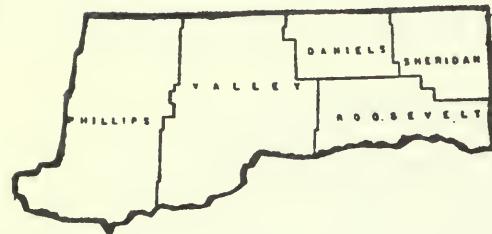
BOZEMAN LMA (Cont.)

In Belgrade, a \$3 million fire loss on a lumber mill will displace employees. Approximately seventy-five mill workers have been laid off until the mill is back in operation. Some of the employees will be called back for the cleanup process.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Outlook:

The Glasgow LMA showed a drop of 1,300 in both the civilian labor force and the number of employed persons since August. In September, the civilian labor force numbered 17,200 and the number of employed persons was at 16,600. This gives us an unemployment count of 600, which was the same for August.



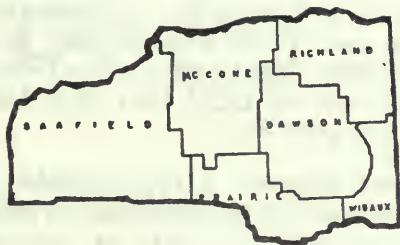
The employment and unemployment figures this month show no change in relation to September of 1978, except in the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate rests at a favorable 3.3%, which is a half of a percentage point lower than in September one year ago, and compared to 3.4% for August this year.

Economic Highlights and Economic Outlook:

Construction continues to highlight economic activity in the LMA. Residential construction appears to be very active and is expected to continue through the winter months. A new motel and convention center is presently in the planning stages for Glasgow. Work on Highway 2 is progressing well, while construction on some tribal housing units is winding down and releasing some carpenters and laborers in the Wolf Point area.

The addition of a 52 unit motel has had no ill effects on the motel business, as all area motels have recently been reporting no vacancies. Retail business has been good in the Glasgow and Malta areas. Oil exploration and drilling also continues to be active in the Wolf Point and Plentywood areas.

Good weather has held up some layoffs in the construction business. There is a demand for service workers, nurses aides, grain elevator helpers and clerks. Agriculture workers and some construction workers top the list of new registrants and are seeking work at wages higher than most of the current openings.



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of employed persons in this LMA remained unchanged from August at 300. However, both the civilian labor force and number of employed persons fell by 1,400, to 15,000 and 14,700, respectively. September's unemployment rate was 2.1%.

The count of last year's unemployed in September, 400, is 100 more than this year. The civilian labor force remained the same as last year at 15,000.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

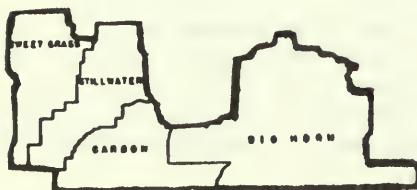
The economic outlook for the LMA this month is excellent. However, shortages of available workers were reported in construction, sugar beet, restaurant, tavern, and mining occupations.

Construction activity was high the entire month with a new mechanic shop and bulk plant underway in Glendive and a new motel, bank, and clinic started in Sidney. The 11 block resurfacing project in Glendive, employing 50 people and costing over \$1.5 million, is nearing completion. Contractors have been busy on outside work and expect to remain busy through the winter months doing inside finish work. Many contractors, though, are not too optimistic about the winter season - anticipating a slowdown due to high interest rates. Oilfield construction activity was strong, with occasional needs for seismic workers and shop workers, to fill temporary and permanent positions.

The sugar beet harvest in the LMA began October 1. Average tonnage per acre, at 19-20 tons, is down from last year's record; however, sugar content is up and will affect this to some extent. A sugar beet processing factory in Sidney is again plagued by a shortage of labor. Availability of housing in the area is partly to blame for this. Sunflower and safflower harvests in the area are near complete.

Forecasts of available fuel supplies through the winter are mixed. Some dealers are optimistic while others see supplies as tight. Rumors that a new coal mine might soon open in the Circle area to supply a coal gasification plant in Billings have been denied. Extensive development of this project is 8-10 years away; however, in the next 2-3 years a mine may open, but only employing 10 people.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The four-county labor market area recorded a civilian labor force of 13,700 in September. In comparison, last month's figure was 14,300 and one year prior's count totaled to 13,300. Employment calculated to 13,300 in September, which is 500 less than August and 400 less than one year ago.

Unemployment has remained at 400 for the past three months. Also, September, 1978, unemployment count was 400. The September unemployment rate increased slightly from August's 2.9% to 3.2%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the construction industry, water systems highlight the LMA. Hardin city water lines will be upgraded through a \$469,000 grant from the Montana Coal Board. The project will take up to two years to complete because of the numerous digging locations. The city of Red Lodge submitted a \$375,000 request for federal funding to assist in upgrading the water system and storage tanks.

Big Horn county commissioners have deviated from the trend of reducing community services employment. Three dispatchers were added to assist the road crew, ambulance service, and fire control, mental unit and solid waste department.

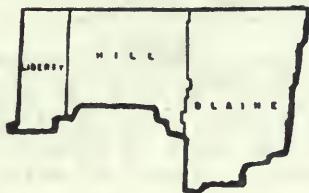
The Crow Tribal Council approved a feasibility study for strip mining and for a generating plant. The study will involve an examination of the requirements for mining, generation, social and economic impacts, and transportation and use of water from the Big Horn River.

Tourism improved slightly in the Hardin area from visitors to the Bighorn National Recreation area. From January to September, 249,484 people were recorded. The registration indicated an increase in visitors from communities near Big Horn Canyon.

In Hardin, a television station studio was approved for transmitting by the federal authorities. Projected air date is April, 1980.

Exhausted funds under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Program resulted in 265 positions being terminated. All of the employment was located on the Crow Reservation.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the Havre LMA in September totaled 12,800. In September of 1978, the total count for workers was 2.3% higher at 13,100 workers. Employment followed in the same manner as it fell by 2.4% since last September. The total employed persons for September this year was 12,300, which was 600 less than one month earlier.

Unemployment dropped by 100 persons from August to September of this year, which brought the total of unemployed persons to 500. This is the same number of unemployed for September of 1978. The unemployment rate dropped from 4.5% in August to a more favorable 3.9% for September. This is only two-tenths of a percentage point higher than in September of 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity remained relatively constant during this reporting period for the Havre LMA. Weather continues to cooperate for outside work. There are no major construction projects in progress at this time, but there are plans for an 80 unit motel project to go up in the near future.

There is a possibility that Havre will be the home of a new electricity generating facility. Coal is plentiful in Hill County as they have estimated coal reserves of 76.55 million short tons of sub-bituminous coal.

Havre employers are discussing the possibility of using the Target Jobs Tax Credit. This may be a good sign for the employment outlook in the Havre area. The trade industry is showing the most activity in this LMA. Very little hiring is going on in construction and agriculture, as most of that work has slowed down considerably. Exploration drilling is limited primarily to seismic work at this time.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of unemployed persons in the LMA for September, 1,200, is 100 lower than August as well as September, 1978. This month's unemployment rate dropped to 4.1% from 4.5% in August and 4.6% in September of last year.

The civilian labor force dropped by 600 to 28,400 in September. Last year at this time, 28,500 persons were in the labor force. The number of persons employed in September is unchanged from last year, but 500 lower than in August.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Proposals by business to build in the Helena area and announcements by others to leave highlight economic activity this period. On the negative side, an airline carrier announced it would be dropping Helena from its route. Also, a variety store in downtown Helena announced it would be closing its doors in January. However, the store will relocate in a new shopping center - several of which are now proposed in Helena.

On the positive side, a Helena hospital has proposed an \$8.3 million expansion project. Construction may begin in March with completion set for fall of 1981. Capacity of the facility would be expanded 25%.

Another shopping center proposal for Helena has been made public. This one is an \$8-10 million project to expand an existing mall. After expansion, 120-145 retail jobs will be created. This proposal has drawn mixed reactions in light of proposals for malls on the outskirts of Helena, and also, concerning the effects on the downtown area.

In construction occupations activity has been very slow. Little new hiring has occurred due to the lack of new housing starts. There have been reports of union workers leaving town to find work.

Agriculture activity was stable this period, with some hiring of farm and ranch help. The unusually warm weather, though, has allowed many farmers to get work done themselves. Poultry and egg producers in the Townsend area sustained heavy losses this period after being forced to destroy hens and eggs tainted with PCB.

The shortage of competent secretaries and typists in past months is now not as serious, with many qualified applicants entering the labor force. Higher interest rates forced a Helena automobile leasing business to close its doors this period. Also, a lending institution has stopped making conventional housing loans for the same reason.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



This month's employment statistics compare favorably to last month and also September of last year. The unemployment rate this month of 5.2% compares to 5.6% for August and 6.4% for September, 1978. The reasons for the drop, however, are different in each case.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Relative to August, this month's labor force dropped 2,100 to 40,500. Employment dropped as well, by 1,800 to 38,400. The drop in unemployment, though, was 300 - resulting in a lower unemployment rate.

Relative to September of 1978, the situation is just the opposite. Last year's labor force of 39,800 is lower and employment of 37,300 is lower; but, unemployment was higher at 2,500 resulting in an unemployment rate 1.2% higher than this year.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity in the area has been generally slow this period. In Kalispell and Polson, progress is being made on current projects, but there have been only occasional new hires. Unusually warm weather has postponed the expected downward trend in activity as winter begins.

A national hotel chain is studying the feasibility of constructing a new hotel in downtown Kalispell. The viability of the downtown area in Kalispell has been a heated issue following overtures by an out-of-state developer to construct a shopping center in the Buffalo Hill area. The city council eventually rejected requests by the builder; however, approval was granted for an indoor theatre in the same area. In Libby, construction is nearly complete on the \$900,000 County Courthouse job. Work will soon begin on a 30-unit apartment complex in Libby, costing \$800,000 as well as three solar homes, valued at \$150,000.

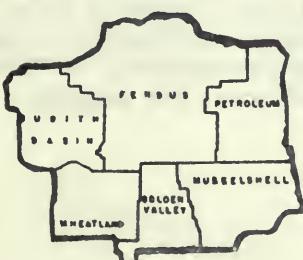
In lumber and logging industries, Kalispell and Polson area producers are running below normal production standards. However, in Libby, logging activity is increasing with some shortages of cat skidders and rubber tire operators. One producer in Libby laid off ten men temporarily for two weeks until the new owner takes over. There are no indications of layoffs yet in logging and lumber in Libby.

In Polson, a wood stove manufacturer has been adding a few more employees to the payroll each week. A second shift is anticipated soon, and when a new fabricating shop is complete, nearly 60 new employees may be added.

In agriculture, the activity has been steady with no delays in getting work done. The potato harvest began early in the month as well as the Christmas tree harvest. The Christmas tree industry is about a week behind schedule due to unusually warm and dry temperatures.

In Kalispell, layoffs in the government sector have increased, as Forest Service and National Park employees are laid off for the winter months.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force declined by 1,100 from August to September, leaving a total of 11,600. One year prior the labor force was 11,300. Those considered employed in September numbered 11,300. In comparison, last month had 12,300 persons employed and September, 1978 had 10,900 workers.

LEWISTOWN LMA (Cont.)

The count of unemployed in September was 300 persons. This is 100 less than last month's and one year ago. The unemployment rate in September reduced to 2.6% from August's 2.8%. This compares favorably with the one year prior figure of 3.5%.

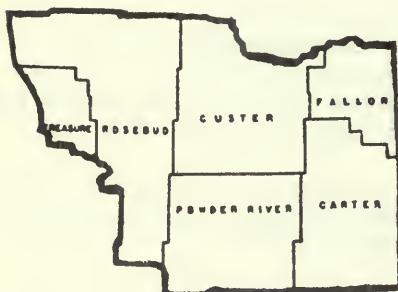
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction of the city complex has been delayed until bonds can be sold. December is projected to be the month the city will be in a financial position to sell the \$850,000 bonds. The current bonding strength of the city is \$800,000. Other construction projects continue as weather permits.

Employment opportunities in the lumber industry are improving. Two new sawmills have begun operations in the LMA. Also, ranch workers have been in demand to prepare for feeding operations.

A proposed \$3.34 million high school improvement issue failed to pass a majority of voters. The school bonding issue had strong interest, as the voter turnout was large.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force dipped to 15,700 from 16,600 in the August to September period. One year prior, the civilian labor force was also 15,700 persons. The September employed ranks totaled 15,200. In comparison, August had 16,100 and September, 1978 was 15,100.

The unemployed sum of 500 in September is the same as August and 100 less than one year ago. The unemployment rate in September calculated to 2.9% and in September, 1978 the rate was 3.9%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Southeastern Montana has a unique employment situation - more jobs available than qualified employees. Much of the situation stems from the increased activity of the energy-related industries. Business representatives from Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, and the local Job Service officials have formed a tri-city committee to deal with their mutual employment obstacles.

Banks in the Miles City LMA, as well as other eastern Montana cities, are experiencing loan requests from North and South Dakota residents. The 12% usury law has created a tight money market in the Dakotas. Montana banks are allowed to go 4% above the federal reserve's discount rate. Miles City lending institutions received \$4,080,000 in low interest guarantees from the Montana Board of Housing. A loan average of \$45,000 would allow ninety homes to be purchased under the program.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

In September, building permits totaled thirty-four, with an estimated value of \$2,197,400. One year prior forty-four permits were issued at a \$463,343 value. The largest permits issued in September were for a motel and a new recreation complex. Thru September, the value of building permits totaled \$6,341,686. This compares favorably with last year's \$5,520,047.

Among the new construction projects are a grade school and a water waste treatment plant. Contracts have been awarded for the grade school. Contracts for the treatment plant will be announced after a 23 year bond issue of \$1,050,000 is sold. A bond issue just under \$5 million will go to the voters in November for improvement on the Custer County High School.

A coal mine expansion request has been issued by an established mining company in Rosebud County. Production would increase from 2.3 million to 4.2 million tons of coal annually by 1985. Also, thirty-two more employees would be utilized.

Although the future of a railroad line west of Miles City is still in dispute, the railroad track line east from Miles City shall be upgraded. The repair work is needed to get the track in shape for hauling coal.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

With economic activity slowing and the labor force contracting, we find the September labor force at 53,000. This is 1,000 lower than in August and 1,100 higher than September of 1978. Employment reflected the same type of changes when it dropped to 50,500 in September. The total number of workers employed for August was 51,200 and in September, 1978 was 49,000.

The Missoula LMA recorded 2,500 workers out of work during September. This compares to 2,800 in August and 2,900 in July. In September, 1978 there were 2,900 unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is at 4.8%. In August, the unemployment rate was at 5.1% and in September, 1978 at 5.5%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The announcement of the closure of a plywood manufacturing plant and logging operations highlights economic activity in the Missoula LMA for this reporting period. Approximately 300 employees will be left without work.

A two-thousand seat baseball facility was approved by the city council. The stadium will cost about \$500,000. Construction on the new shopping center in the Hamilton area continues on schedule.



MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

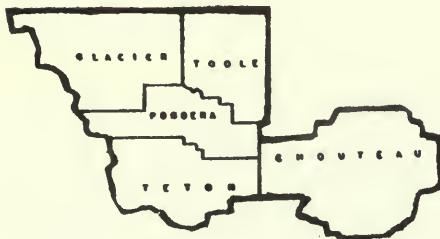
New business in the Hamilton area includes an iron works shop and a new custom-made wood stove business. On the other hand, there were two area restaurants closed.

Residential building permits for September were down over 50% from last year. The warm weather has allowed construction to continue in most areas. There are very few new house starts at this time.

Potato and apple harvest has kept many busy. Demand for workers in this area has been good. There have been a number of employees laid off in the manufacturing industry within the last few weeks. The unusual warm weather we are having is the main factor, keeping outdoor activity above average levels.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



As with most the LMAs for this reporting period, the Shelby-Cut Bank LMA showed a contracted labor force. Total workers for September numbered 18,600, 1,400 lower than one month ago. Last year the labor force totaled 19,200 for September. Employment reflected the same move as it dropped to 18,000 from 19,200 in August and compares to 18,300 in September of 1978.

The number of unemployed persons dropped from 800 in August to 600 in September. This compares to 900 in September of last year. The unemployment rate showed 3.9% in July, 3.8% in August, and down to 3.2% for September. This is 1.4% lower than the unemployment rate for September of 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the Shelby-Cut Bank LMA remains steady for this reporting period. The two major construction projects in the Cut Bank area are winding down. The new shopping center is in the process of interior decorating and moving in the fixtures, so it won't be long. Also, the low rent apartment complex is nearing completion. Activity continues on the water line projects in Shelby and Sunburst.

The employment outlook continues to be favorable as the weather continues to be cooperative for outside work. Oilfield work remains steady, while several new job openings were filled in that area this month. Drilling along the mountain front has been stepped up and oilmen are very optimistic about results in that area. Harvest operations are completed, with fair to good yields reported.

Activity appears to be slowing down some with harvest completed and employers getting set for the winter months.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

September 1979

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	159	97	427
CETA-CEP	66	56	218
CEJA-INST	111	22	186
CETS-OJT	55	56	138
JOB CORPS	57	42	393
PSE TITLE II	140	58	454
PSE TITLE VI	98	24	253
PSE TITLE VI-A	136	40	336
CETA-AWE	84	40	148
STIP I	0	0	0
HIRE II	1	38	4
YETP/OJT	22	3	32
STIP II	0	13	14
PSE II DAB	35	4	78
YETP/INST	10	2	14

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. ^{1/}

(1967 = 100) Percent Change From:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sept. 1979</u>	<u>Aug. 1979</u>	<u>Sept. 1978</u>
All Items	223.7	1.0	12.4

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

September 1979

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<u>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</u>
Non-White	13.0 %
Female	49.5 %
Youth	10.6 %
Over 45	19.5 %

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

Table I
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Disputes ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/} Montana	U. S.	
<u>1977</u>								
January	315.8	290.3	267.7	22.6	25.5	8.1	8.3	*
February	318.4	292.9	268.1	24.8	25.5	8.0	8.5	*
March	327.2	301.9	272.0	29.9	25.3	7.7	7.9	.1
April	336.1	313.8	276.8	37.0	22.3	6.6	6.9	*
May	343.4	323.1	285.0	38.1	20.3	5.9	6.4	*
June	360.0	338.5	295.2	43.3	21.5	6.0	7.5	.1
July	364.4	343.2	297.0	46.2	21.2	5.8	7.0	3.4
August	374.5	353.7	304.4	49.3	20.8	5.5	6.8	.2
September	362.5	343.3	304.9	38.4	19.2	5.3	6.6	.1
October	347.0	327.8	295.3	32.5	19.2	5.5	6.3	.4
November	345.0	323.7	295.8	27.9	21.3	6.2	6.4	.3
December	345.7	323.7	299.8	23.9	22.0	6.4	6.0	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
<u>1978</u>								
January	338.7	312.1	290.1	22.0	26.6	7.8	7.0	*
February	342.5	316.8	292.9	23.9	25.7	7.5	6.9	*
March	355.1	328.6	300.0	28.6	26.5	7.5	6.6	*
April	365.9	344.5	309.4	35.1	21.4	5.9	5.8	*
May	373.6	354.9	318.8	36.1	18.7	5.0	5.5	.1
June	395.1	371.4	330.2	41.2	23.7	6.0	6.2	.4
July	396.5	375.0	330.9	44.1	21.5	5.4	6.3	.2
August	393.6	373.4	326.2	47.2	20.2	5.1	5.8	.1
September	382.0	363.9	327.1	36.8	18.1	4.7	6.0	.1
October	368.1	350.8	319.5	31.3	17.3	4.7	5.4	.1
November	367.6	346.4	319.5	26.9	21.2	5.8	5.5	.1
December	361.2	338.1	315.0	23.1	23.1	6.4	5.6	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
<u>1979</u>								
January	356.2	329.6	308.3	21.3	26.6	7.5	6.4	*
February	358.6	336.5	313.3	23.2	22.1	6.2	6.4	1.0
March	366.1	346.3	318.5	27.8	19.8	5.4	6.1	*
April	377.0	358.1	323.9	34.2	18.9	5.0	5.5	*
May	386.2	370.0	334.7	35.3	16.2	4.2	5.2	*
June	400.4	382.3	342.1	40.2	18.1	4.5	6.0	*
July	398.9	381.8	338.8	43.0	17.1	4.3	5.8	*
August	395.5	378.8	332.8	46.0	16.7	4.2	5.9	.1
September	379.7	365.0	329.1	35.9	14.7	3.9	5.6	.1
October	368.4	352.5	322.0	30.5	15.9	4.3	5.1	
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION
SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agric.	Total	Percent ^{1/} County	State	
<u>1977</u>								
January	31.4	29.0	28.1	.9	2.4	7.7	8.1	*
February	31.4	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.1	6.8	8.0	*
March	32.1	29.9	28.7	1.2	2.2	7.0	7.7	*
April	32.2	30.3	28.8	1.5	1.9	5.9	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.8	29.3	1.5	1.9	5.8	5.9	*
June	34.1	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.1	6.0	6.0	*
July	34.3	32.2	30.4	1.8	2.1	6.2	5.8	.8
August	34.5	32.4	30.5	1.9	2.1	6.1	5.5	*
September	34.8	32.7	31.2	1.5	2.1	6.0	5.3	*
October	34.1	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.2	6.3	5.5	.3
November	34.0	32.0	30.9	1.1	2.0	5.9	6.2	.3
December	34.0	31.7	30.8	.9	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
<u>1978</u>								
January	33.2	30.4	29.5	.9	2.8	8.3	7.8	*
February	33.7	31.0	30.1	.9	2.7	8.0	7.5	*
March	34.7	32.1	31.0	1.1	2.6	7.4	7.5	*
April	34.5	32.5	31.1	1.4	2.0	5.8	5.9	*
May	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	5.4	5.0	*
June	37.1	34.3	32.7	1.6	2.8	7.4	6.0	*
July	37.1	34.8	33.1	1.7	2.3	6.3	5.4	*
August	37.0	34.7	32.8	1.9	2.3	6.2	5.1	*
September	36.8	34.5	33.0	1.5	2.3	6.2	4.7	*
October	36.0	33.9	32.7	1.2	2.1	5.9	4.7	*
November	36.3	33.6	32.5	1.1	2.7	7.4	5.8	*
December	35.6	32.8	31.9	.9	2.8	7.9	6.4	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
<u>1979</u>								
January	34.9	31.9	31.1	.8	3.0	8.6	7.5	*
February	34.6	32.2	31.3	.9	2.4	6.9	6.2	*
March	34.9	32.8	31.9	1.1	2.1	6.1	5.4	*
April	35.4	33.4	32.0	1.4	2.0	5.6	5.0	*
May	36.1	34.3	32.9	1.4	1.8	5.0	4.2	*
June	36.8	34.7	33.1	1.6	2.1	5.7	4.5	*
July	36.1	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	5.8	4.3	*
August	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	5.5	4.2	*
September	35.1	33.3	31.9	1.4	1.8	5.1	3.9	*
October	34.3	32.6	31.4	1.2	1.7	5.0	4.3	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/} County	State	
<u>1977</u>								
January	48.0	45.0	44.0	1.0	3.0	6.2	8.1	*
February	48.2	45.3	44.2	1.1	2.9	6.0	8.0	*
March	49.0	46.3	44.9	1.4	2.7	5.6	7.7	*
April	49.4	47.0	45.3	1.7	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
May	50.0	47.7	46.0	1.7	2.3	4.6	5.9	*
June	51.7	49.4	47.4	2.0	2.3	4.4	6.0	*
July	51.9	49.6	47.5	2.1	2.3	4.4	5.8	*
August	52.6	50.3	48.0	2.3	2.3	4.3	5.5	*
September	52.9	50.7	48.9	1.8	2.2	4.2	5.3	*
October	51.6	49.3	47.8	1.5	2.3	4.4	5.5	*
November	52.0	49.7	48.4	1.3	2.3	4.4	6.2	*
December	52.7	50.3	49.2	1.1	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
<u>1978</u>								
January	51.1	48.0	47.0	1.0	3.1	6.1	7.8	*
February	51.4	48.5	47.4	1.1	2.9	5.6	7.5	*
March	52.9	49.7	48.4	1.3	3.2	6.1	7.5	*
April	53.8	51.5	49.9	1.6	2.3	4.3	5.9	*
May	53.8	51.7	50.0	1.7	2.1	3.9	5.0	*
June	55.7	53.0	51.1	1.9	2.7	4.8	6.0	*
July	55.3	53.0	51.0	2.0	2.3	4.2	5.4	*
August	55.0	52.7	50.5	2.2	2.3	4.1	5.1	*
September	55.5	53.4	51.7	1.7	2.1	3.8	4.7	*
October	54.6	52.8	51.4	1.4	1.8	3.2	4.7	*
November	55.2	52.6	51.4	1.2	2.6	4.8	5.8	*
December	54.4	51.7	50.6	1.1	2.7	4.9	6.4	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
<u>1979</u>								
January	53.5	50.5	49.5	1.0	3.0	5.7	7.5	*
February	<u>52.9</u>	50.5	49.4	1.1	2.4	4.5	6.2	*
March	53.3	51.2	49.9	1.3	2.1	3.9	5.4	*
April	53.8	51.9	50.3	1.6	1.9	3.5	5.0	*
May	55.2	53.6	52.0	1.6	1.6	2.9	4.2	*
June	55.3	53.5	51.7	1.8	1.8	3.2	4.5	*
July	54.8	53.1	51.1	2.0	1.7	3.2	4.3	*
August	55.3	53.5	51.4	2.1	1.8	3.2	4.2	*
September	<u>54.9</u>	53.3	51.7	1.6	1.6	2.9	3.9	*
October	54.2	52.4	51.0	1.4	1.8	3.3	4.3	*
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table IV
MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY						Net Changes to Current Month from:
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	379.7	395.5	382.0	-15.8	- 2.3	
EMPLOYED PERSONS	365.0	378.8	363.9	-13.8	1.1	
Persons Employed in Agriculture	35.9	46.0	36.8	-10.1	-.9	
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	14.7	16.7	18.1	- 2.0	- 3.4	
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	3.9	4.2	4.7	-.3	-.8	
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	4.9	4.9	5.8	0	-.9	
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data) ..	298.7	298.8	287.4	-.1	11.3	
MANUFACTURING	28.2	28.7	27.2	-.5	1.0	
<u>Durable Goods</u>	18.9	19.3	18.1	-.4	.8	
24 Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	12.3	11.2	-.3	.8	
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0	
Other Durable Goods	3.6	3.7	3.6	-.1	0	
<u>Nondurable Goods</u>	9.3	9.4	9.1	-.1	.2	
20 Food and Kindred Products	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	.2	
27 Printing and Publishing	2.2	2.3	2.3	-.1	-.1	
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.1	1.2	1.2	-.1	-.1	
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.6	.1	.2	
MINING	8.1	8.2	7.1	-.1	1.0	
10 Metal Mining	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	-.1	
12 & 14 Bitum., Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining ..	2.2	2.3	2.2	-.1	0	
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	3.7	3.7	2.6	0	1.1	
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	18.7	18.8	19.6	-.1	-.9	
15 General Building Contractors	7.0	7.0	6.6	0	.4	
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.8	4.9	5.8	-.1	-1.0	
17 Special Trade Contractors	6.9	6.9	7.2	0	-.3	
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	24.3	24.2	22.9	.1	1.4	
40 Railroad Transportation	7.5	7.5	7.4	0	.1	
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	7.8	7.6	7.1	.2	.7	
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services ..	9.0	9.1	8.4	-.1	.6	
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	79.5	79.4	75.0	.1	4.8	
Wholesale Trade	18.5	18.4	16.4	.1	2.1	
Retail Trade	61.0	61.1	58.6	.1	2.4	
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories ..	9.0	8.8	9.1	.2	-.1	
54 Food Stores	7.9	8.0	7.6	-.1	.3	
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	9.2	9.3	8.8	-.1	.4	
58 Eating and Drinking Places	23.5	23.6	22.3	-.1	1.2	
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc. ..	11.4	11.4	10.8	0	.6	
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	14.2	14.3	12.4	-.1	1.8	
SERVICES	55.2	55.2	54.9	0	.3	
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	7.7	8.3	8.2	-.6	-.5	
72 Personal Services	2.4	2.3	2.7	.1	-.3	
80 Medical and other Health Services	17.1	17.1	17.3	0	-.2	
Other Services	28.0	27.5	26.7	.5	1.3	
GOVERNMENT	70.4	69.9	68.4	.5	2.0	
91 Federal Government	13.4	15.2	13.9	-1.8	-.5	
92 State Colleges and Universities	7.2	6.5	8.5	.7	-1.3	
92 Other State Government	11.1	11.2	11.0	-.1	.1	
93 Local Education	21.9	18.7	20.7	3.2	1.2	
93 Other Local Government	16.8	18.3	14.3	-1.5	2.5	

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
 (ESTABLISHMENT DATA *in italics*)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

September 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	35.1	35.8	36.8	- .7	-1.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33.3	33.8	34.5	- .5	-1.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.4	1.8	1.5	- .4	- .1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.8	2.0	2.3	- .2	- .5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.1	5.5	6.2	- .4	-1.1
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	5.9	6.1	7.0	- .2	-1.1
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS <i>(Establishment Data)</i>	32.0	31.7	31.4	.3	.6
Manufacturing	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	.1
Contract Construction	2.0	2.1	2.1	- .1	- .1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	2.3	2.2	2.0	.1	.3
Trade	10.8	10.7	10.5	.1	.3
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	.1
Retail Trade	8.1	8.0	7.9	.1	.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	.1
Services and Mining	6.6	6.6	6.7	0	- .1
Government	6.2	6.0	6.2	.2	0
Federal Government	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
State and Local Government	4.2	4.0	4.2	.2	0

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	54.9	55.3	55.5	- .4	- .6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	53.3	53.5	53.4	- .2	- .1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.6	2.1	1.7	- .5	- .1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.6	1.8	2.1	- .2	- .5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	2.9	3.2	3.8	- .3	.9
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	3.5	3.5	4.4	0	-.9
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	49.1	48.1	46.6	1.0	2.5
Manufacturing	4.4	4.5	4.2	- .1	.2
Contract Construction	3.2	3.1	3.0	.1	.2
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	4.6	4.4	4.4	.2	.2
Trade	16.6	16.5	15.6	.1	1.0
Wholesale Trade	5.4	5.4	5.2	0	.2
Retail Trade	11.2	11.1	10.4	.1	.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	.2
Services and Mining	10.1	9.9	9.5	.2	.6
Government	7.9	7.4	7.8	.5	.1
Federal Government	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
State and Local Government	6.4	5.9	6.3	.5	.1

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}
Civilian Labor Force
in Thousands

	<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>				<u>UNEMPLOYMENT</u>				<u>UNEMPLOYMENT RATE</u>		
	July 1979	Aug 1979	Sept 1979	July 1979	Aug 1979	Sept 1979	July 1979	Aug 1979	Sept 1979	July 1979	Aug 1979
STATEWIDE	398.9	395.5	379.7	381.8	378.8	365.0	17.1	16.7	14.7	4.3	4.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36.0	35.8	35.1	33.9	33.8	33.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	5.8	5.5
BILLINGS SMSA	54.8	55.3	54.9	53.1	53.5	53.3	1.7	1.8	1.6	3.2	3.2
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	308.1	304.4	289.7	294.8	291.5	278.4	13.3	12.9	11.3	4.3	4.3
ANACONDA-BUTTE	38.9	38.2	35.7	36.9	36.2	34.1	2.0	2.0	1.6	5.1	5.3
BOZEMAN	28.9	28.7	27.5	28.0	27.9	26.7	.9	.8	.8	3.2	2.9
GLASGOW	18.6	18.5	17.2	17.9	17.9	16.6	.7	.6	.6	3.7	3.4
GLENDIVE	16.5	16.4	15.0	16.1	16.1	14.7	.4	.3	.3	2.2	2.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	14.2	14.3	13.7	13.8	13.9	13.3	.4	.4	.4	3.1	2.9
HAVRE	14.0	13.5	12.8	13.4	12.9	12.3	.6	.6	.5	4.4	4.5
HELENA	29.7	29.0	28.4	28.3	27.7	27.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	4.5	4.5
KALISPELL	42.2	42.6	40.5	39.9	40.2	38.4	2.3	2.4	2.1	5.5	5.6
LEWISTOWN	12.6	12.7	11.6	12.2	12.3	11.3	.4	.4	.3	3.1	2.8
MILES CITY	16.8	16.6	15.7	16.3	16.1	15.2	.5	.5	.5	3.1	3.1
MISSOULA	54.9	54.0	53.0	52.0	51.2	50.5	2.9	2.8	2.5	5.3	5.1
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.7	20.0	18.6	19.9	19.2	18.0	.8	.8	.6	3.9	3.8

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE						EMPLOYMENT						UNEMPLOYMENT						UNEMPLOYMENT RATE						UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					
	Sept 1979		Sept 1978		Percent Change 1978- 1979		Sept 1979		Sept 1978		Percent Change 1978- 1979		Sept 1979		Sept 1978		Net Change 1978- 1979		Sept 1979		Sept 1978		Net Change 1978- 1979		Sept 1979		Sept 1978		Net Change 1978- 1979	
STATEWIDE	379.7	382.0	-.6	365.0	363.9	.3	14.7	18.1	-3.4	3.9	4.7	-.8																		
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	36.8	-4.6	33.3	34.5	-3.5	1.8	2.3	-.5	5.4	6.2	-.1																		
BILLINGS SMSA	54.9	55.5	-1.1	53.3	53.4	-.2	1.6	2.1	-.5	2.9	3.8	-.9																		
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	289.7	289.7	0	278.4	276.0	.9	11.3	13.7	-2.4	3.9	4.7	-.8																		
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.7	37.2	-4.0	34.1	34.9	-2.3	1.6	2.3	-.7	4.6	6.2	-.6																		
BOZEMAN	27.5	27.5	0	26.7	26.6	.4	.8	.9	-.1	2.7	3.3	-.6																		
GLASGOW	17.2	17.2	0	16.6	16.6	0	.6	.6	0	3.3	3.8	-.5																		
GLENDIVE	15.0	15.0	0	14.7	14.6	.7	.3	.4	-.1	2.1	2.5	-.4																		
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.7	13.3	3.0	13.3	12.9	3.1	4.4	4.4	0	3.2	3.2	0																		
HAVRE	12.8	13.1	-2.3	12.3	12.6	-2.4	.5	.5	0	3.9	3.7	.2																		
HELENA	28.4	28.5	-.4	27.2	27.2	0	1.2	1.3	-.1	4.1	4.6	-.5																		
KALISPELL	40.5	39.8	1.8	38.4	37.3	2.9	2.1	2.5	-.4	5.2	6.4	-.1																		
LEWISTOWN	11.6	11.3	2.7	11.3	10.9	3.7	.3	.4	-.1	2.6	3.5	-.9																		
MILES CITY	15.7	15.7	0	15.2	15.1	.7	.5	.6	-.1	2.9	3.9	-.1																		
MISSOULA	53.0	51.9	2.1	50.5	49.0	3.1	2.5	2.9	-.4	4.8	5.5	-.7																		
SHELBY-CUT BANK	18.6	19.2	-3.1	18.0	18.3	-1.6	.6	.9	-.3	3.2	4.6	-.1																		

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
 2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Areas.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	SEPTEMBER 1979
				PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	379710	364975	14735	3.9
CASCADE	35060	33287	1773	5.1
YELLOWSTONE	54865	53294	1571	2.9
BEAVERHEAD	4513	4414	99	2.2
BIG HORN	6393	6137	256	4.0
BLAINE	3129	2946	183	5.8
BROADWATER	1836	1777	59	3.2
CARBON	3375	3275	100	3.0
CARTER	922	867	55	6.0
CHOUTEAU	3111	3068	43	1.4
CUSTER	6081	5947	134	2.2
DANIELS	1469	1448	21	1.4
DAWSON	5818	5657	161	2.8
DEER LODGE	5868	5541	327	5.6
FALLON	2238	2195	43	1.9
FERGUS	6455	6296	159	2.5
FLATHEAD	23692	22460	1232	5.2
GALLATIN	20601	20063	538	2.6
GARFIELD	850	829	21	2.5
GLACIER	6145	5810	335	5.5
GOLDEN VALLEY	404	389	15	3.7
GRANITE	1441	1365	76	5.3
HILL	8577	8274	303	3.5
JEFFERSON	2228	2076	152	6.8
JUDITH BASIN	1266	1193	73	5.8
LAKE	9224	8840	384	4.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	24319	23367	952	3.9
LIBERTY	1124	1104	20	1.8
LINCOLN	7562	7068	494	6.5
MC CONE	1219	1206	13	1.1
MADISON	2453	2413	40	1.6
MEAGHER	1064	1035	29	2.7
MINERAL	1566	1503	63	4.0
MISSOULA	38828	36991	1837	4.7
MUSSELSHELL	1915	1879	36	1.9
PARK	5834	5645	189	3.2
PETROLEUM	325	322	3	.9
PHILLIPS	2857	2782	75	2.6
PONDERA	3592	3514	78	2.2
POWDER RIVER	1280	1247	33	2.6
POWELL	3976	3805	173	4.3
PRAIRIE	813	807	6	.7
RAVALLI	8651	8213	438	5.1
RICHLAND	5610	5508	102	1.8
ROOSEVELT	5162	4914	248	4.8
ROSEHUD	4669	4487	182	3.9
SANDERS	4029	3830	199	4.9
SHERIDAN	2740	2697	43	1.6
SILVLR BOW	17468	16539	929	5.3
STILLWATER	2164	2105	59	2.7
SWEET GRASS	1813	1788	25	1.4
TETON	2950	2876	74	2.5
TOOLE	2773	2706	67	2.4
TREASURE	492	483	9	1.8
VALLEY	4927	4751	176	3.6
WHEATLAND	1246	1229	17	1.4
WIBAUX	726	713	(26)	1.8

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

AUGUST 1979
PERCENT
RATE

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
STATEWIDE	395488	378817	16671	4.2
CASCADE	35764	33792	1972	5.5
YELLOWSTONE	55243	53492	1751	3.2
BEAVERHEAD	4874	4760	114	2.3
BIG HORN	6496	6263	233	3.6
BLAINE	3455	3227	228	6.6
BROADWATER	1945	1884	61	3.1
CARBON	3525	3422	103	2.9
CARTER	1097	1025	72	6.6
CHOUTEAU	3546	3489	57	1.6
CUSTER	6357	6220	137	2.2
DANIELS	1577	1548	29	1.8
DAWSON	6003	5841	162	2.7
DEER LODGE	6232	5866	366	5.9
FALLON	2248	2205	43	1.9
FERGUS	6834	6659	175	2.6
FLATHEAD	24925	23584	1341	5.4
GALLATIN	21480	20863	617	2.9
GARFIELD	1055	1014	41	3.9
GLACIER	6186	5732	454	7.3
GOLDEN VALLEY	481	457	24	5.0
GRANITE	1476	1408	68	4.6
HILL	8782	8431	351	4.0
JEFFERSON	2182	2051	131	6.0
JUDITH BASIN	1457	1365	92	6.3
LAKE	10080	9575	505	5.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	24916	23808	1108	4.4
LIBERTY	1276	1250	26	2.0
LINCOLN	7632	7099	533	7.0
MC CONE	1440	1427	13	.9
MADISON	2758	2666	92	3.3
MEAGHER	1177	1142	35	3.0
MINERAL	1782	1715	67	3.8
MISSOULA	38879	36919	1960	5.0
MUSSELSHELL	2152	2111	41	1.9
PARK	6051	5861	190	3.1
PETROLEUM	378	373	5	1.3
PHILLIPS	3180	3097	83	2.6
PONDERA	3776	3672	104	2.8
POWDER RIVER	1412	1369	43	3.0
POWELL	4157	3963	194	4.7
PRAIRIE	925	915	10	1.1
RAVALLI	8942	8445	497	5.6
RICHLAND	6186	6086	100	1.6
ROOSEVELT	5425	5161	264	4.9
ROSEHED	4922	4710	212	4.3
SANDERS	4341	4094	247	5.7
SHERIDAN	2871	2841	30	1.0
SILVER BOW	18768	17577	1191	6.3
STILLWATER	2339	2273	66	2.8
SWEET GRASS	1902	1891	11	.6
TETON	3290	3211	79	2.4
TOOLE	3146	3075	71	2.3
TREASURE	558	547	11	2.0
VALLEY	5441	5215	226	4.2
WHEATLAND	1372	1350	22	1.6
WIBAUX	794	781	(27)	1.6

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT				TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
			Sept. 1978	Aug. 1979	Net Change to Current Month From:	Total	Percent Women	Total
	Sept. 1979 1/	Aug. 1979						
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	127.3	128.5	120.4	-1.2	6.9	298.7	42.6	298.8
Manufacturing	3.2	3.3	3.1	-.1	.1	28.2	11.3	28.7
Mining .....	.5	.5	.4	0	.1	8.1	6.1	8.2
Contract Construction	1.7	1.7	1.4	0	.3	18.7	9.0	18.8
Transportation & Public Utilities ..	4.5	4.5	4.2	0	.3	24.3	18.6	24.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	36.9	36.9	35.5	0	1.4	79.5	46.5	79.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.5	8.5	7.9	0	.6	14.2	59.9	14.3
Services	34.3	34.3	34.3	0	0	55.2	62.1	55.2
Government 2/	37.7	38.8	33.7	-1.1	4.0	70.4	53.5	69.9

1/ Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmark.
Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In thousands)

1978

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Am. Avg.</u>
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.8	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.4	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.6	34.6	35.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

1979

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7	122.4	124.2	126.5	128.1	129.1	127.7	128.5	127.3
Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Mining .....	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	35.6	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.8	36.3	36.9	36.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Services	35.0	34.8	35.0	34.7	35.0	34.9	34.1	34.3	34.3
Government	35.7	34.8	36.2	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.7	37.7	37.7

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

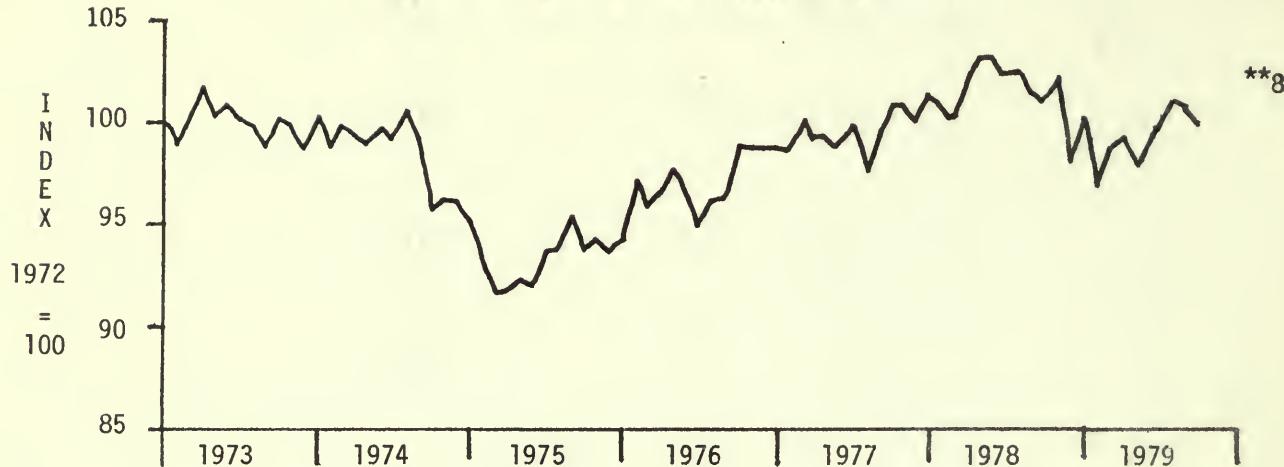
Establishment Series began January, 1974.

Revised to 1978 Benchmark.

Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS

1978

January	100.6
February	100.2
March	102.2
April	103.1
May	103.1
June	102.4
July	102.5
August	102.5
September	101.8
October	102.2
November	98.0
December	100.4

1979

January	96.7
February	98.8
March	99.2
April	97.8
May	99.9
June	101.3
July	100.9
August	99.4
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

In August, the Composite index of Six Economic Indicators declined for the second consecutive month. Manufacturing employment was the lone indicator with positive movements, but building permits was the only component that altered the Composite Index significantly from the previous month.

Montana's economy has been in an expansionary period since 1975, with recent erratic movements. Cold weather during last winter was responsible for the instability of the Composite Index through May 1979. If a decline is noted when the Composite Index for September is computed, then a downward trend is indicated. This would indicate a sluggish second half for Montana in 1979.

* Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.

*** Figures in italics indicate declines from previous month.

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

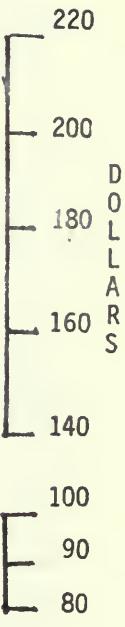
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS

(1967) DOLLARS

Average Weekly Earnings

Real Spendable Earnings

| 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 |



	<u>Aug. 1979</u>	<u>July 1979</u>	<u>Aug. 1978</u>
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	234.99	233.07	214.68
Taxes Withheld	37.56	37.25	34.38
Spendable Earnings	197.42	196.62	180.30
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	108.29	106.79	89.11
Real Spendable Earnings	89.13	89.83	91.19

1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
----------------------------	----------------------------

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

1978
July 217.49
Aug. 214.68
Sep. 215.27
Oct. 218.40
Nov. 200.99
Dec. 217.56

92.67
91.19
90.81
91.15
84.45
89.87

Gross earnings rose slightly during August, but price increases of the Consumer Price Index continue to alter any positive movement in real spendable earnings. The August gross earnings are up 9.5% from one year prior, and the inflation rate as reflected in the Consumer Price Index is 12% above last year's. The inflation outlook is not good.

1979
Jan. 215.42
Feb. 219.57
Mar. 221.43
Apr. 220.68
May 225.42
June 236.99
July 233.87
Aug. 234.99
Sep.
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.

Spendable earnings is expected to increase because of the tax rate change in state withholding requirements. September's state taxes will be zero, as wages paid in September will not require withholding. The last three months of 1979 will have approximately 50% reduction in state withholdings from previous months gross average weekly earnings.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary.

1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

Table XII
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}	Montana	
<u>1977</u>								
January	336.8	315.4	281.4	34.0	21.4	6.3	7.4	*
February	338.6	316.6	281.8	34.8	22.0	6.5	7.6	*
March	339.1	316.8	281.9	34.9	22.3	6.6	7.4	.1
April	339.8	317.5	282.0	35.5	22.3	6.6	7.1	*
May	342.4	319.3	284.4	34.9	23.1	6.7	7.1	*
June	339.5	319.8	284.8	35.0	19.7	5.8	7.1	.1
July	343.7	321.8	286.6	35.2	21.9	6.4	6.9	3.4
August	352.0	329.5	294.7	34.8	22.5	6.4	7.0	.2
September	353.1	330.4	296.3	34.1	22.7	6.4	6.8	.1
October	349.4	327.0	293.3	33.7	22.4	6.4	6.8	.4
November	350.3	328.2	294.6	33.6	22.1	6.3	6.7	.3
December	355.1	333.5	299.9	33.6	21.6	6.1	6.3	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
<u>1978</u>								
January	359.8	337.4	304.0	33.4	22.4	6.2	6.3	*
February	362.6	340.4	306.7	33.7	22.2	6.1	6.1	*
March	367.3	343.8	310.2	33.6	23.5	6.4	6.2	*
April	369.6	348.0	314.7	33.3	21.6	5.8	6.1	*
May	372.7	351.2	318.1	33.1	21.5	5.8	6.1	.1
June	374.8	352.8	319.8	33.0	22.0	5.9	5.8	.4
July	375.8	353.6	320.7	32.9	22.2	5.9	6.1	.2
August	371.1	349.3	316.6	32.7	21.8	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.4	350.8	318.2	32.6	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.6	350.0	317.4	32.6	20.6	5.6	5.8	.1
November	372.8	350.7	318.0	32.7	22.1	5.9	5.8	.1
December	370.5	347.9	315.1	32.8	22.6	6.1	5.9	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
<u>1979</u>								
January	377.4	354.9	322.2	32.7	22.5	6.0	5.8	*
February	378.7	360.1	327.1	33.0	18.6	4.9	5.7	1.0
March	378.2	361.4	328.7	32.7	16.8	4.4	5.7	*
April	380.8	361.7	329.3	32.4	19.1	5.0	5.8	*
May	385.2	366.2	333.9	32.3	19.0	4.9	5.8	*
June	380.0	363.7	331.7	32.0	16.3	4.3	5.6	*
July	378.1	360.3	328.5	31.8	17.8	4.7	5.7	*
August	373.0	354.7	323.1	31.6	18.3	4.9	6.0	.1
September	370.1	351.9	320.1	31.8	18.2	4.9	5.8	.1
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

Table XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/} County	State	
1977								
January	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.3	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.5	*
March	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.6	*
April	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
June	32.8	31.0	29.6	1.4	1.8	5.4	5.8	*
July	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.3	6.4	.8
August	33.5	31.3	29.9	1.4	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
September	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.4	*
October	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	.3
November	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.3	.3
December	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.1	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
1978								
January	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
February	35.1	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.6	7.3	6.1	*
March	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.4	*
April	35.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	3.1	8.5	5.8	*
May	36.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	3.1	8.6	5.8	*
June	35.9	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	*
July	36.0	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.9	*
August	36.0	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.9	*
September	36.2	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.5	7.0	5.8	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.6	*
November	36.2	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.8	7.7	5.9	*
December	36.1	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.9	8.0	6.1	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
1979								
January	36.2	33.5	32.2	1.3	2.7	7.4	6.0	*
February	36.1	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.3	6.3	4.9	*
March	35.3	33.4	32.3	1.3	1.9	5.4	4.4	*
April	35.8	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.1	5.8	5.0	*
May	36.2	34.2	32.9	1.3	2.0	5.6	4.9	*
June	35.5	33.7	32.4	1.3	1.8	5.1	4.3	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.6	1.3	2.0	5.9	4.7	*
August	34.8	32.7	31.5	1.2	2.1	6.1	4.9	*
September	34.5	32.5	31.3	1.2	2.0	5.9	4.9	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

Table XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/} County	State	
<u>1977</u>								
January	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
February	50.0	47.5	45.9	1.6	2.5	5.1	6.5	*
March	50.2	47.8	46.2	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
April	49.9	47.4	45.7	1.7	2.5	5.0	6.6	*
May	50.5	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.8	5.5	6.7	*
June	50.0	48.1	46.5	1.6	1.9	3.9	5.8	*
July	50.5	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.3	4.6	6.4	*
August	51.6	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
September	52.1	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.5	4.9	6.4	*
October	51.2	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
November	51.9	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.3	*
December	52.4	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	6.1	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
<u>1978</u>								
January	52.7	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.6	5.0	6.2	*
February	53.2	50.7	49.1	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.1	*
March	54.1	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.9	5.4	6.4	*
April	54.2	51.8	50.2	1.6	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
May	54.2	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.8	*
June	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
July	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
August	54.0	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
September	54.7	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
October	54.2	52.1	50.6	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.6	*
November	55.1	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.8	5.2	5.9	*
December	54.1	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
<u>1979</u>								
January	54.6	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.6	4.7	6.0	*
February	54.7	52.7	51.2	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
March	54.6	52.8	51.3	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.4	*
April	54.3	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.0	*
May	55.6	53.6	52.1	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
June	53.6	52.2	50.7	1.5	1.4	2.7	4.3	*
July	53.5	51.8	50.3	1.5	1.7	3.3	4.7	*
August	54.2	52.4	51.0	1.4	1.9	3.5	4.9	*
September	54.0	52.1	50.6	1.5	1.9	3.5	4.9	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	<u>Average Weekly Earnings</u>		<u>Average Weekly Hours</u>		<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979
TOTAL PRIVATE	236.59	234.99	215.27	37.2	37.3	35.7
MANUFACTURING						
Durable Goods	375.32	368.48	328.75	44.0	43.3	41.3
Primary Metal Industries	379.70	374.07	323.38	44.1	43.7	41.3
Nondurable Goods	390.40	374.74	337.41	40.0	40.6	37.7
Food and Kindred Products	365.77	356.59	341.14	43.7	42.3	41.4
MINING						
Metal Mining	445.41	451.05	411.77	49.0	48.5	45.2
	421.49	422.17	415.42	37.3	36.3	38.5
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	363.73	363.09	354.45	36.3	36.2	33.0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES						
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	337.47	331.27	319.28	43.1	42.2	41.9
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	190.52	190.65	166.32	33.9	34.6	33.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE						
	158.98	153.32	148.06	33.4	34.3	36.2
SERVICES	142.86	142.45	137.02	35.1	35.0	33.5

Data for current month are preliminary.
 Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
 Selected Industries series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
 Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES						Total					
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug 1978	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug 1978	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug 1978	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug 1978	Aug 1979	July 1979	Aug 1978
MANUFACTURING	3.1	3.0	3.5	2.9	2.6	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	3.0	2.0	3.7	2.1	1.7	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.5
Durable Goods	2.4	2.3	3.4	2.2	2.0	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.7	1.8	3.3	1.8	1.2	2.1	0.2	0.2	0.5
Primary Metal Industries	1.6	1.4	2.2	0.6	0.7	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	2.6	1.3	1.7	1.4	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.2
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.3	3.7	4.4	4.1	3.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	3.5	2.5	4.3	2.7	1.6	3.2	0.1	0.2	0.6
MINING	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.2	4.7	4.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.8	3.5	4.5	2.5	1.8	3.1	0.1	0.9	0.4
Metal Mining	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	*	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.3	2.3	*	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3

* Less than .05.
 Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	Sept. 1979	Sept. 1978	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			1979	1978
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	16	16	295	280
MINING	25	10	220	88
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	47	58	638	774
MANUFACTURING	14	18	224	204
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	19	13	196	142
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	73	76	959	1039
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	19	29	363	365
SERVICES NON-PROFIT SERVICES	101 (23)	87 (12)	1207 (207)	1191 (209)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	5	1	129	70
STATE TOTAL	319 (39)	308	4231	4153

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

<u>Areas</u>	<u>NEW BUSINESS FIRMS</u>				<u>NEW BUSINESS FIRMS</u>				
	<u>Year to Date</u>				<u>Year to Date</u>				
Sep. 1979	Sep. 1978	1979	1978	Areas	Sep. 1979	Sep. 1978	1979	1978	
STATE OF MONTANA	319	308	4231	4153	HAVRE LMA	8	5	119	121
GREAT FALLS SMSA	17	24	287	356	Blaine	0	1	17	23
BILLINGS SMSA	42	58	664	670	Hill	8	3	89	81
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	26	INA	192	INA (May-Sep)	Liberty	0	1	13	17
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	17	21	260	292	HELENA LMA	25	29	327	323
Beaverhead	2	4	41	49	Broadwater	2	0	23	13
Deer Lodge	3	6	23	23	Jefferson	2	2	24	39
Granite	2	2	16	11	Lewis and Clark	21	27	280	271
Madison	1	1	37	33	KALISPELL LMA	41	44	531	533
Powell	1	2	15	31	Flathead	23	29	344	366
Silver Bow	8	6	128	145	Lake	9	8	89	91
BOZEMAN LMA	27	27	320	436	Lincoln	9	7	98	76
Gallatin	24	21	251	353	LEWISTOWN LMA	10	5	94	88
Meagher	0	1	7	14	Fergus	7	4	57	56
Park	3	5	62	69	Golden Valley	1	0	5	2
GLASGOW LMA	14	4	143	106	Judith Basin	1	0	11	7
Daniels	1	0	9	3	Musselshell	1	0	12	15
Phillips	5	1	29	12	Petroleum	0	0	2	2
Roosevelt	5	1	36	36	Wheatland	0	1	7	6
Sheridan	1	2	29	21	MILES CITY LMA	6	10	113	118
Valley	2	0	40	34	Carter	0	0	5	7
GLENDIVE LMA	24	14	255	164	Custer	2	7	46	52
Dawson	7	2	67	44	Fallon	2	1	28	14
Garfield	0	0	8	8	Powder River	1	0	12	16
McCone	2	1	13	6	Rosebud	0	1	18	27
Prairie	1	0	6	7	Treasure	1	1	4	2
Richland	14	11	154	96	MISSOULA LMA	37	50	616	649
Wibaux	0	0	7	3	Mineral	0	1	14	15
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	11	5	126	112	Missoula	28	32	439	471
Big Horn	4	1	42	35	Ravalli	4	13	119	120
Carbon	2	4	45	36	Sanders	5	4	44	43
Stillwater	4	0	25	23	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	14	12	184	185
Sweet Grass	1	0	14	18	Choteau	1	0	29	22
					Glacier	9	7	52	51
					Pondera	0	1	41	43
					Teton	0	1	15	23
					Toole	4	3	47	46

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1979 THRU SEPTEMBER 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,790	145,449.06
BIGHORN	2,339	196,626.74
BLAINE	1,729	130,910.65
BROADWATER	886	73,223.17
CARBON	2,216	199,225.93
CARTER	119	7,928.32
CASCADE	37,297	3,095,284.37
CHOUTEAU	690	53,168.14
CUSTER	2,759	234,606.96
DANIELS	228	14,887.00
DAWSON	1,697	150,850.86
DEER LODGE	7,612	623,183.19
FALLON	370	29,465.52
FERGUS	3,032	256,027.62
FLATHEAD	25,427	2,089,360.83
GALLATIN	12,566	1,020,867.10
GARFIELD	198	16,143.00
GLACIER	6,317	496,785.19
GOLDEN VALLEY	159	13,060.00
GRANITE	1,325	102,053.97
HILL	4,900	391,154.94
JEFFERSON	2,462	217,697.22
JUDITH BASIN	219	19,763.00
LAKE	7,405	599,370.83
LEWIS AND CLARK	19,337	1,652,222.60
LIBERTY	286	25,227.36
LINCOLN	13,454	1,138,239.05
MCCONE	135	13,221.00
MADISON	705	52,315.88
MEAGHER	619	47,344.16
MINERAL	1,958	163,914.66
MISSOULA	37,622	3,059,820.52
MUSSELSHELL	875	76,942.41
PARK	4,563	339,256.68
PETROLEUM	5	221.00
PHILLIPS	1,199	102,569.36
PONDERA	1,706	142,990.06
POWDER RIVER	183	17,100.00
POWELL	3,031	249,149.40
PRAIRIE	404	36,572.00
RAVALLI	9,711	742,522.99
RICHLAND	996	76,580.19
ROOSEVELT	2,669	193,806.32
ROSBUD	2,739	230,262.65
SANDERS	4,707	382,059.29
SHERIDAN	251	20,036.00
SILVER BOW	23,524	1,865,285.62
STILLWATER	1,250	121,812.50
SWEET GRASS	136	10,514.85
TETON	1,318	108,628.96
TOOLE	1,755	140,735.24
TREASURE	198	15,639.96
VALLEY	3,414	267,978.95
WHEATLAND	184	12,755.70
WIBAUX	220	16,098.00
YELLOWSTONE	32,124	2,767,483.13
INTRASTATE	295,045	24,278,427.93
INTERSTATE	12,580	1,594,711.03
TOTAL	307,625	25,873,135.96

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SEPTEMBER 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	69	4,755.00
BIGHORN	118	8,960.00
BLAINE	169	12,716.18
BROADWATER	45	2,992.00
CARSON	78	6,548.00
CARTER	4	224.00
CASCADE	2,375	185,209.52
CHOUTEAU	20	1,267.18
CUSTER	50	3,251.44
DANIELS	8	412.00
DAWSON	96	8,371.00
DEER LODGE	445	33,046.15
FALLON	22	1,895.00
FERGUS	141	10,713.44
FLATHEAD	1,138	89,473.61
GALLATIN	590	50,843.65
GARFIELD	11	503.00
GLACIER	350	25,627.50
GOLDEN VALLEY	4	452.00
GRANITE	59	3,794.48
HILL	300	23,592.17
JEFFERSON	170	13,750.26
JUDITH BASIN	3	246.00
LAKE	463	35,172.21
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,243	107,119.79
LIBERTY	5	216.00
LINCOLN	496	38,073.03
MCCONE	0	0.00
MADISON	71	5,565.00
MEAGHER	25	1,969.00
MINERAL	39	3,534.00
MISSOURA	2,429	199,253.52
MUSSELSHELL	36	2,674.41
PARK	176	12,464.60
PETROLEUM	1	15.00
PHILLIPS	40	3,097.00
PONDERA	39	2,586.00
POWDER RIVER	11	862.00
POWELL	169	13,285.71
PRairie	1	91.00
RAVALLI	588	43,592.93
RICHLAND	52	4,066.01
ROOSEVELT	153	11,806.05
ROSEBUD	191	15,131.75
SANDERS	196	14,487.56
SHERIDAN	10	729.00
SILVER BOW	1,744	126,091.24
STILLWATER	35	2,268.00
SWEET GRASS	0	0.00
TETON	51	4,077.00
TOOLE	47	3,757.00
TREASURE	0	0.00
VALLEY	155	12,567.45
WHEATLAND	13	888.36
WIBAUX	8	452.00
YELLOWSTONE	1,658	136,569.44
INTRASTATE	16,410	1,292,591.64
INTERSTATE	901	1,92,961.41
TOTAL	17,311	1,385,553.05

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1979	1978	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	33,308	32,736	572	1.7
Continued Claims ^{1/}	364,749	362,470	2,279	.6
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	307,625	289,859	17,766	6.1
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$25,873,139	\$22,887,906	\$2,985,233	13.0
Average Weekly Benefit Amount ^{1/}	\$87.88	\$83.98	\$3.90	4.6

MONTHLY

	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	<u>Change From Year Ago</u>	
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	1,798	2,042	2,114	-316	-14.9
Continued Claims ^{1/}	20,534	31,388	22,615	-2,081	-9.2
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	17,311	27,471	17,527	-216	-1.2
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$1,385,553	\$2,247,285	\$1,367,204	\$18,349	1.3
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt ^{1/}	\$83.98	\$84.95	\$82.22	\$1.76	2.1
Trust Fund Balance	\$11,290,023*	\$12,348,773*	\$2,829,568*	\$8,460,455	299.0

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

^{2/} Derived According to Definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
 * Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$10,484,089.

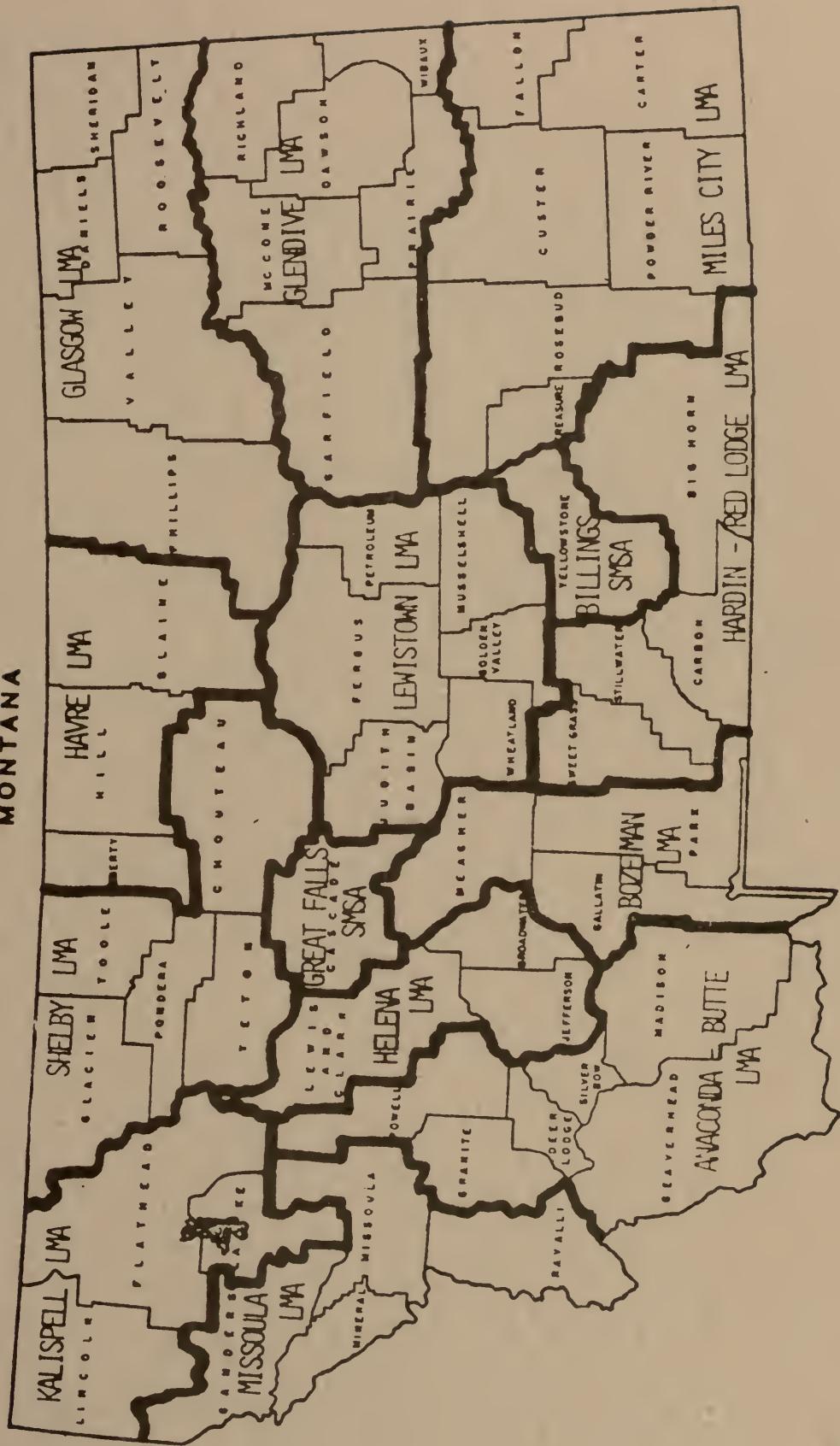
Unlike some Septembers, most of this month's weather was favorable for construction, farming and other outdoor work, which helped keep initial claims fewer than both last month and last year. Continued claims also dropped from August and from a year ago. However, January through September tallies for both claims groups were again higher than the same period last year.

The number of benefit payments this month was only slightly less than a year ago but over 10,000 less than last month, probably because of the warm, dry weather. Total benefits amount was also smaller than in August, but more than last September due to increased benefits rates this year. The cumulative totals for both number and amount of benefits continued to be more than for the year-to-date period in 1978.

The Average Weekly Benefit Amount showed a minor drop from August, but was \$1.76 more than September 1978. For the first nine months of this year, the AWBA rose \$3.90 over the same time a year ago.

The last month of a quarter is the time when the least amount of employer contributions are received for the Trust Fund, so this month's balance has declined from August. Last year the fund was growing but was still far behind the current balance.

LABOR MARKET AREAS IN MONTANA



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